

FARMERS' DEPARTMENT.

Culture and Manufacture of Tobacco.

Last week we published an article upon tobacco raising, taken from a Western paper. The following is from the pen of John C. Roberts, of Tarrifville, Connecticut, giving the mode of cultivating and manufacturing in that State:

Preparation of the Seed Bed.—We have generally prepared the seed bed in the fall, by heavy manuring, plowing in deep, and leaving the bed in a rough state until the following spring. As soon as the frost is out of the ground, grade the bed over, for the purpose of bringing the manure up to the surface and thoroughly mixing the soil, at the same time clearing out all roots of weeds and grass.

After leveling the bed we make the soil as compact as possible, either by rolling with a heavy roller or stamping with the feet. We then rake the surface lightly with a fine-tooth garden rake, and sow the seed, raking lightly to cover it, and then roll or tramp it again.

The seed is so very small, being smaller than mustard seed, that it is better to mix it with dry muck or ashes before sowing, as it is more evenly distributed on the bed. We sow about as thickly as in sowing cabbage seed in the garden. The bed is treated precisely as a bed in the garden, in weeding, etc.

The land being manured and well harrowed, we lay out the ground with a marker, setting the teeth $\frac{3}{4}$ feet apart, and mark it out one way. We then raise a ridge about six inches high, by turning two furrows together with a one-horse plow. The ridges being made, we mark across them, making the marks 24 feet apart.

We set the plants from the 5th to the 15th of June, (choosing, if possible, some damp day for the purpose,) though I have seen very handsome crops raised, set out as late as the 4th of July.

Insects injurious to the Crop.—Some years we have been greatly troubled by the cut-worms, for which reason we have been in the habit of plowing in a green crop, either rye or clover, which feeds the worms, and consequently they do not eat the tobacco so badly.

The cut-worm usually finishes its work of destruction by July 4th, up to which time, when a rainy day comes, all hands turn out and set over the missing plants.

The green or tobacco worm proper, commences operating about July 1st. We often find the eggs (of the miller, which produces the worm) on the under side of the leaf; they are about the size of a large pin-head, and a light pea-green color. The miller flies by night, and is rarely seen. I have seen but two in the seven years we have raised tobacco. The head looks very much like an owl's; the body is gray in color, about 14 inches long, and the wings, when spread, extend about three inches from tip to tip. The green worm is a constant source of annoyance, from its first appearance until the tobacco is cut. We sometimes have to go over the ground every day for worms, though in some seasons once a week will suffice.

Cultivation, Harvesting, etc.—The tobacco will not grow much until it is hoed, as the ground becomes hard, and must be well stirred to give the roots a chance to start. There is an advantage in setting the plants on a ridge, for they are not so apt to be covered with dirt in plowing, or by a heavy shower. We generally hoe as often as we can, but rarely more than three times, unless the ground is very weedy.

The cost of production varies greatly with the seasons; as when we have a dry season we have to water the plants, and cover them with a little cut hay to prevent the sun from scorching them. The past season was very favorable, there having been so much damp weather about setting time that we did not cover or water a plant on 44 acres.

After the tobacco is set the labor is about double what it is on corn. I have never made an exact calculation of the expense of raising tobacco, but for myself I can say I would rather take care of one acre of tobacco than of two acres of corn. The land which will produce 2,000 pounds per acre of tobacco, will not produce over 70 bushels of corn, which shows a large difference in favor of tobacco.

About the middle of August the tobacco is in blossom. We then go over the field and break off the tops, taking off about four or six leaves with the top, according to the size of the plant.

In about a week, a sucker starts at the junction of each leaf with the stalk. These must be taken off before cutting, as, if left on, it is very inconvenient to handle the tobacco.

We generally begin cutting about the 10th of September, for by that time the most of it is ripe, and if it stands after it is fully ripe it will often rust. The rust is in spots on the leaf, and injures the quality.

We commence cutting in the morning after the dew is off, and let it lie for a while to wilt, being careful not to let it lie long enough to get sunburnt. After being wilted enough to handle without breaking the leaves, it is placed in a cart or wagon and drawn to the curing-house, which is generally a shed or rough building, which may be shut up close, or opened to let in air. The best buildings are about 24 or 30 feet wide, and as long as convenience may dictate—36 feet allowing of three 12-foot rails across the building. We hang from 25 to 35 plants on a rail, according to the size.

The butt of the stalk is placed against the rail, and the twine passed around it, the twine being crossed on top of the rail between every two plants, as they are placed on alternate sides. The rails are about 20 inches apart, allowing room for a good circulation of air, which is absolutely necessary, as without it the tobacco will sweat on the poles, and is lost.

In about six weeks or two months the tobacco is sufficiently cured to strip. After it is well cured, the first damp day we open every door and window to let in the air, for it is necessary to have it damp to keep it from breaking.

When it is taken from the poles it is placed in a pile, a double tier, the tips lapping about six inches or one foot, butts evenly laid and closely packed to prevent drying. If not damp, it may lie so for several days without injury; but it requires close watching to prevent it from heating.

We divide it, after stripping, into three kinds, called wrappers, seconds and fillers. The wrappers are the choicest leaves, and the fillers are the poorest leaves, and bring one-third the price of wrappers. When the leaves are stripped from the stalk, about a dozen leaves are put together and a leaf coiled around the butts, which makes a band. As a general thing, the more particular we are in assorting, the better price we get. I have seen a really nice lot of tobacco sold for a very small price, for want of care in assorting.

I think we have averaged 15 cts. a pound for wrappers, $\frac{7}{8}$ cts. for seconds, and 5 cts. for fillers. During the seven years we have raised tobacco; and the weight would average 1,500 pounds per acre, and have sold it for 20 cents per pound for the first quality.

In such a yield as the above, there would not be over 300 pounds of the first and second qualities both together.

We do not care it, but sell to dealers who do. The case is made of merchantable soft-pine boards, and is about $\frac{3}{4}$ feet long by $\frac{2}{3}$ wide and $\frac{1}{4}$ deep. About 400 pounds of tobacco is put in each case, by means of a screw. In a few days after casing, the sweating process commences. During some stages of this process, a person not acquainted with it, were he to examine the tobacco, would say it was worthless, it being perfectly soft, and apparently rotten. I have often seen the outside of the case so hot as to draw piteous from the knots in the boards.

The tobacco must go through this process before it is manufactured, to give it the necessary finish.

This year we shall probably get a higher price than ever before. I have already heard of 25 cents per pound being offered for all three qualities.

How Long Should Cows Run Dry?

This depends altogether upon circumstances. We have known cows to give milk the year round. Such a cow is the one for a poor family, or where but one is kept. In dairies there should be about two months, or from two to three. This is commonly the practice with dairymen. It keeps the cows better during the interval; gives them a chance to recruit for the calving time—though an increase of feed will do this, where the cow is milked till within a short time of calving. It has not been proved to be true that it will hurt a cow to milk nearly or quite the year round. An increased amount of food, or good food, is all that is necessary. It is the feeding and good treatment of cattle in all cases that make good stock, of whatever kind; and that is the great secret. Then milk as long as you please.

It is a habit, also, whether you let your cow run dry long or not. You can in a few seasons make the difference of a month. There is testimony enough to this effect. Let those dairymen, milk as long as they can, and feed well and variety, give little or nothing, which a cow so well likes, and the good housewife so well understands.—*Valley Farmer.*

A NEW WAY TO TAKE HONEY FROM THE HIVE.—Bore a few holes near the top of your hive, which place in a tub, top down. Set another hive over this, and then gradually let water into your tub. This will drive the bees into the upper hive, which when the bees are all in, remove to the beehive. Your lower hive will be full of water, but it will not injure the honey. Draw off the water, and in a short time the combs will dry. But few bees will be lost in the operation. Tried.—*Valley Farmer.*

TO KILL LICE ON STOCK OF ALL KINDS.—Take an ounce of cocculus indicus, which should be bought of any druggist at from twelve to fifteen cents per pound, and steep it one gallon of water, and apply it as recommended for tobacco extract. It will be found quite as effectual, and much more pleasant to use. I have used it with unvarying success for killing lice on canary birds. Dip them in, keeping the head out, and soak well. It is perfectly safe.

TREASON COMMENCED IN ILLINOIS.—The teachings of the Copperhead organs are beginning to have their effect in this country. Treason, which has been rampant in Tioga, Hancock county, a small village near the Adams county line, for a long time past, finally resulted in raising a secession flag on last Saturday night by the Missouri bushwhackers, who have been harbored by the citizens of that section, assisted by a few "congenial spirits" who belong to Adams county. This outrage, it seems, was too much for even the Democracy of Lima, and they called a public meeting, which was participated in by all parties.—*Quincy Whig.*

NOTICE.

William H. Billings, plaintiff, vs. Angelina Billings, defendant. Divorce. The said Angelina Billings, of the county of Williams, in the State of Ohio, is hereby notified that the said William H. Billings did, on the 10th day of January, A. D. 1863, file his petition in the office of the District Court, Fifth Judicial District, within and for the county of Chase, and State of Kansas, charging the said Angelina Billings with willful absence from her husband, the said William H. Billings, for more than one year, last past, and asking that he may be divorced from the said Angelina Billings. And said defendant is further notified that, unless she answer by the 21st day of March, A. D. 1863, the petition of said plaintiff will be taken as true, and decree rendered accordingly. Dated this 10th day of January, A. D. 1863. WILLIAM H. BILLINGS.

By A. S. HOWARD, his Attorney.

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